



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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PHYSICIAN FORUM ON ROTAVIRUS SET FOR APRIL 27 *Forum to Address Disease, Newly-Approved Vaccine, Related Issues*

Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea among children, resulting in the hospitalization of approximately 55,000 children each year in the United States and the death of over 600,000 children annually worldwide. The FDA recently approved a vaccine to protect infants against this disease.

To help educate local physicians about the disease, vaccine and related issues, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Immunization Branch, in partnership with the San Diego chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital, is sponsoring a Physicians' Forum titled, "Rotavirus Vaccine and Vaccine Safety Issues." The forum is planned for 6 – 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, at the Doubletree Hotel-Mission Valley (at Hazard Center) in San Diego. The keynote speaker will be Umesh Parashar, M.D., of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Other speakers will include Nancy Bowen, M.D., San Diego County Health Officer, Eyla G. Boies, M.D., Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at UCSD School of Medicine and a practicing pediatrician; and Thomas Page, M.D., President of the Children's Primary Care Medical Group.

"This is a great opportunity for health care providers to learn about this disease, the newly-approved rotavirus vaccine and discuss issues related to vaccine safety," said Bowen. "We want local physicians to view this forum as a valuable resource that can help them in their practices."

Physicians seeking more information about the forum, vaccine preventable diseases or immunization in general can call the County HHSA Immunization Branch at (619) 692-8661, or visit the website at www.immunization-sd.org.

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